

1st Grade

Carrie Ann Followell
Glasscock Elementary

In the future, farmers can stop growing tobacco because less and less people smoke. They can start planting vegetables and fruits instead of the tobacco. Everybody eats vegetables and fruits.

In the future, we need to stop using most of our land up to build more towns. If we run out of land for the farmers to grow fruits and vegetables, then we will have no food to eat that grows on land.

2nd Grade

Becky Ito
Glasscock Elementary

In the future, farmers probably could raise more fruits, vegetables, milk and eggs. The extra fruits, vegetables, milk and eggs would be used to sell in stores.

Some farmers could stop planting tobacco. Instead, they could plant more food and trees to make houses for people.

Farmers probably sell pets to other people. Some pets they could sell are: horses, cats, and probably dogs.

Farmers in the future will probably tell everybody to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. This would help us all by not having so much garbage.

Farmers in the future could raise more sheep to make clothes to sell in stores. Clothes made from sheep are: shirts, scarves, and hats.

A lot of things will change in the future.

Farming will too!

3rd Grade

Lianna Spurrier
Chenoweth Elementary

Your Walls are Full of Soybeans?

Sally gets out of bed and makes it, but does she know that her sheets are made from cotton? She's using agriculture! Next she has breakfast. Again, agriculture! Her cereal, milk, bacon, and juice come from agriculture! She puts on her shoes, dos her homework on paper, and takes a bath with soap. That's ALL agriculture. In the future she may also be riding a school bus that runs on corn while her mom drives a car running on soybeans, and eating her after-school snack from a plastic bag made from corn. This is Kentucky agriculture growing for the future. Farmers and scientists are finding new uses for the things we already grow. Some other new uses include hand sanitizers, solvents, and house insulation foam from soybeans. These new uses are helping farmers make a living. They're also renewable. Al this shows a bright and beautiful future for Kentucky agriculture.

4th Grade

Kacie Leachman
Utica Elementary

Growing Toward the Future

Just like kids are expanding with technology, so is agriculture. Today Kentucky farmers are moving into the future by using all kinds of technology such as satellites, computers, and sensors to help produce their crops. You may think space and farming have nothing to do with each other, but space is playing a powerful role in agriculture. Today, by using satellites in space farmers can receive weather information, estimate their harvests, and even guide their tractors! With the help of sensors, farmers can measure crops, minerals and moisture of the soil. Farmers can then store all their information on a computer. With all this technology farmers learn exactly what needs to be done to help produce a healthy harvest. Farmers today use many methods that were unknown in the past years. Farmers never stop learning. Their business is always changing. Farming today is a science that is growing toward the future.

I may not have grown up on a farm, but this doesn't mean that I am not connected to agriculture. Someday I may have a career in agriculture. I may be a banker, a scientist or work at a job related to farming. Whatever the future holds for me, I know that agriculture will be a part of it as agriculture is growing toward the future!

5th Grade

Zack Allen

Providence Elementary

Kentucky Agriculture: Growing for the Future

I am the ninth generation of farmers to live on the same farm in Clark County. When my ancestors came to Kentucky they raised mules and grains. That is how my family made their money in the 1700s.

Today my family still lives on the same 200 acres. We raise cattle, alfalfa, corn, and a vegetable garden. We also have some acres that could be used to raise other crops.

In the future I would like to continue to work on my family farm. I want to raise crops and animals that could solve Kentucky's and America's problems. It would be wonderful if I could raise crops so they could be used for fuel for our country's automobiles. It would be even better if I could raise crops that scientists could use for medicine to help people live longer and be healthier. These could be renewable resources that would never run out.

When I look over our acres I think how they could be "Growing for the Future" of Kentucky and America. This makes me feel proud and hopeful for our future.

6th Grade

Zachary Hackworth
Louisa Middle School

Kentucky Agriculture: Growing for the Future

My grandmother was raised in Eastern Kentucky as part of a farm family. She often described the family meals as a bountiful harvest of foods grown on their rural farm. Their dinner table was always full of slices of country ham, creamy fried corn, and hot biscuits spread with molasses and washed down with a glass of cold milk. Her father used simple tools such as plows and hoes to supply an abundance of foods to feed his family. The family's survival depended upon farming.

Many agricultural changes have occurred since the early 1900s. Many food crops are presently being used in technological advances such as biofuels and plant-based medicines. Ethanol is a clear, colorless alcohol fuel made by fermenting the sugars found in grains such as corn, grain sorghum, and wheat. Ethanol contains oxygen which contributes to a cleaner, efficient burning of gasoline. Using biofuels helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil companies. It also helps to save our fossil fuel supplies. The past has paved a road to the present that will lead to endless opportunities for the future of Kentucky agriculture.

It was once said, "The best way to predict the future is to invent it." Education, technology, and training are the keys to inventing the future of the next generation of Kentucky farmers. It's exciting to think that I live in a time when the possibilities are endless to what renewable agricultural products can be invented.

7th Grade

Jessie Mamoth

University Heights Academy

Kentucky Agriculture: Growing for the Future

In the rapidly changing world, it is becoming more important than ever to produce more food quickly and economically. Farmers are using high-tech methods to increase both production and efficiency. They are using their home computers, utilizing both *GPS* and *GIS* using satellites to bring them needed information.

GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing things that exist and events that happen on earth. Many farmers use computers, spreadsheets, and geographic information systems (*GIS*) software to analyze data and create maps. These maps can include such information as pH, nutrient levels, and land features such as hills.

GPS or Global Positioning System uses systems such as satellites to pin point locations on earth. Satellites continuously transmit signals that are monitored by ground stations around the world. These signals are received by any farmers with a *GPS* receiver in his or her tractor, truck or home computer.

Farmers use tractor mounted *GPS* receivers to record location. They use this information along with *GIS* data to determine how much fertilizer, weed control, and water is needed in various locations in the field. In precision agriculture, farmers use *GIS* and *GPS* to translate this information in order to make smarter decisions on how to improve their yields.

As the world population increases, American agriculture must meet global needs for food and fiber. We must also face a possibility of global climate changes. Using technology such as *GPS* and *GIS* will greatly enhance our ability to produce more food using natural resources and labor. The whole world depends on us.

8th Grade

Scott Holston

St. Nicholas Academy

Take a look at Kentucky's (excluding the Appalachian region) biggest agricultural export and cash crop, tobacco. Many people support their families by growing and selling it, but this crop has a limited amount of uses. Now think of a crop just about everyone uses: corn.

I believe a rise in corn growth and cultivation could be a component to the future of agriculture. You may or may not know that corn is the primary ingredient in many household products such as baby powder, batteries, deodorizing spray, charcoal, and many others. Corn is also used to make linens, diapers, soap, and you can even purchase a corn burning stove. Who would have thought the yellow vegetable could be such a diverse crop. Most products have some trace of corn in them.

This is where the tobacco industry comparison comes into play. With tobacco you're only selling to one industry, but with corn you're selling to thousands of industries. According to National Corn Growers Association there are at least 170 corn only suppliers in the United States. Whereas with tobacco there's only about thirty.

So don't be surprised when you're driving to work on a snowy day as road workers put corn de-icer on the road, while you drive along on your corn tires. Yes corn tires. In fact, all Ford Fiesta's in Europe are factory equipped with corn tires.

I say corn is the future of agriculture in the United States.